Phases of the Moon

Create a wheel to show the phases of the Moon. Watch the Moon and match it to your wheel!

Kit contains:

- 1 Moon circle on transparency
- 1 Black circle on paper
- 1 Brad fastener
- 1 Piece of silver foil
- Star stickers
- Moon phases list

You will need: glue, scissors, and a pin or nail to poke a hole.

MORTON GROVE PUBLIC LIBRARY
6140 Lincoln Avenue, Morton Grove, IL 60053
Youth Info Desk: 847-929-5102 | mgpl.org

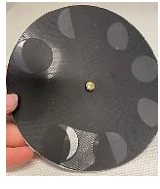
INSTRUCTIONS

(1) Cut out the two circles: the moon circle on transparency and black circle on paper.

(2) Take the small piece of foil and glue it to the edge of the black paper circle.

(3) Line up the circles and poke a hole through the middle of both. Make sure the moon circle has the side with the star sticker facing up and the sticker is toward the top (by “12 o’clock”).

Note: Poking holes requires a sharp object. If you think you should have grown-up assistance, be sure to ask!



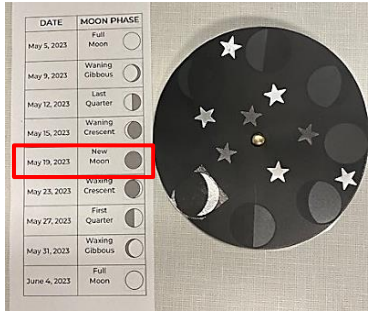
(4) Fasten the two circles together with the brad fastener through the holes you poked.

(5) Decorate with your star stickers!

TRY THIS!

▸ Move the black circle counterclockwise. As the foil goes behind a moon shape, you can see what that phase of the Moon looks like!

▸ Look at the list of dates and Moon phases (with pictures of each phase). Your list has one complete cycle of the Moon. Go outside and look at the Moon on those nights and see if you can make your Moon phase wheel look the same!



Resources

- https://spaceplace.nasa.gov/moon-phases/en/
- *Moon!: Earth's Best Friend* by Stacy McAnulty
- *Moon: A Peek-Through Picture Book* by Britta Teckentrup
- *The Moon's Time to Shine* by Scott Emmons
- *The Moon Book* by Gail Gibbons

WHAT'S GOING ON?

The Moon does not produce its own light. "Moonlight" is sunlight reflecting off the Moon's surface.

The Sun's light comes from one direction and always lights up the side of the Moon that's facing the Sun. On Earth, our view of the light part of the Moon changes depending on where the Moon is in its orbit around Earth. When we have a full view of the Moon's light side, that is known as a **full moon**.

As the Moon moves in its orbit, we start to see less of the Moon's light side. Eventually, the Moon reaches a point in its orbit when we don't see any of the Moon's light side. This phase is called a **new moon**.